Monetary relief to victims of rape

712. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce a scheme to provide monetary relief to victims of rape and is also considering to earmark a corpus of Rs. 250 crore for the purpose;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has already given its nod to a proposal formulated by the National Commission for Women which has provisions for giving monetary compensation of Rs. 2.5 lakh to women who suffer rape; and

(c) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir. A scheme for the relief and rehabilitation of rape victims is under the consideration of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The Ministry has suggested an outlay of Rs. 201 crore for the scheme in the Eleventh Plan (2007—2012).

(b) Planning Commission has commented that the scheme is included in the Annual Plan 2007-08 of the Ministry and outlay provided accordingly. The proposal for approval of the scheme by Expenditure Finance Committee is now under finalization. According to the scheme, a maximum compensation of Rs. 2.00 lakh may be awarded to the victim.

(c) It will not be possible at this stage to indicate any definite time-frame for the scheme to be implemented.

WHO norms on child growth

713. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to adopt the new World Health Organization standards on child growth, that can help improve India's poor rating on the global child nourishment index;

(b) whether a national workshop in this regard was held in which the representatives of State Governments, Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and WCD, UNICEF and WHO participated; and

(c) if so, by when a final decision in adopting new WHO norms would be considered and finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Women & Child Development and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare jointly organized a National workshop on "Adoption of New WHO Child Growth Standards" on February 8-9, 2007 to deliberate on the adoption of these New WHO Child Growth Standards. This workshop was also attended by the State representatives and experts from UNICEF and WHO. Consensus emerged in the workshop in favour of adoption of these standards.